



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

STATINTL

November 30, 1971

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MEMORANDUM

TO: L - Mr. John R. Stevenson, Chairman,
Inter-Agency Task Force on Law of the Sea

FROM: L/OA - Myron H. Nordquist, Chairman, Documentation
and Research Committee

SUBJECT: Status Report on Study/Work Groups

The above Committee met on October 28, 1971, at the Department of State. Those attending were:

State Myron Nordquist, L/OA
Robert Hodgson, RGE
Richard Knott, S/FW-COA
Paul Welling, S/FW-COA
Otho Eskin, IO/UNP
Richard Baxter, L

Defense Frank Newton
Frank Fedele

Commerce Herbert Larkins
(NOAA) Richard Parsons

Justice Lawrence Shearer

Interior J. J. Tracey, Jr.

CIA

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The following study/work groups were constituted at the above meeting:

A. Straits Study Group

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Chairman - Dr. Robert Hodgson, State
Members - Terry McIntyre, State, RGE; [redacted]
CIA; Mr. Moore, Office of Oceanographer, DOD; LCdr. Wulf,
JAG, DOD; (JCS representative to be designated.)
This Group is analyzing the principal straits in the
world and describing and preparing charts on them.

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B. Country Analysis Group

Chairman - Mr. Otho Eskin, State
Members - Mr. Nordquist, L/OA, State;
CIA; Mr. Larkins, NOAA.

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This Group is monitoring U.S. contacts, gathering information for individual country profiles and preparing instructions for U.S. embassies regarding LOS demarches.

The following study/work groups are in existence:

A. Interim Policy

Chairman - Mr. Nordquist, L/OA, State
Members - Mr. Cotter, Interior; Mr. Rashkow, Justice; Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Feehan and Mr. Larkins all of NOAA; Mr. Carruth and Mr. Kolodney of Treasury; Capt. Bursley, Coast Guard; Col. Fedele and Lt. Newton, DOD.
This Working Group is analyzing U.S. interim policy alternatives. Particular attention is being devoted to the recently-introduced Metcalf Deepsea Mining Bill.

B. Computer Country Analysis

Chairman - Mr. Leitzell, L/OA, State
Members - Mr. Windley, NMFS/NOAA
Mr. Leitzell continues to up-date our computerized LOS data on individual states.

C. Draft Seabed Convention Revision

Members - Mr. Oxman, L/OA; Mr. Nordquist, L/OA; Professor Sohn, Harvard Law School; Mr. Cotter, Interior; Mr. Feehan, NOAA; Mr. Ratiner, DOD.
This Group is informally constituted and has a varying membership which meets from time to time to review U.S. policy. More intensive efforts are planned for late December.

The following study groups are expected to be constituted on:

A. Scientific Research

Members - Cdr. Knott and LCdr. Welling of S/FW-COA, State; Mr. Larkins, NOAA; Mr. Maechling, NSF.

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B. African Regionalism Role in LOS

Members - Mr. Walker, AF/State; Mr. Brittin, S/FW-COA, State;

Other inter-agency study/work groups on LOS matters are undoubtedly in existence. However, this memorandum can only inform you of the ones which have come to my attention. Groups will be disbanded or formed as needed to undertake research on LOS issues and listed memberships must be considered tentative.

L:L/OA:MHNordquist:kfo
11/30/71:X22658

STRAITS

I. Geographic

A. Location and relationship to principal water bodies and other straits

1. Broad economic significance
2. Alternative routes
3. Connecting seas
4. Bordering states

a. Coastal length where relevant

B. Physical

1. Dimensions

- a. Natural entrance points
- b. Length of strait
- c. Width - minimax

2. Bathymetry

- a. depths - minimax

3. Other Oceanographic Factors

- a. Currents. i.e., navigation routes

II. Political

A. Agreements controlling passage through or over the strait

1. International agreements
2. IMCO regulations

B. Territorial sea claims and other pertinent maritime legislation

1. Appendix will have citations of maritime legislation of bordering states

C. National attitudes to straits questions

D. Summary of Transit Rights

1. Affects on transit of agreements and sea claims

III. Economic

A. Merchant marine usage and tonnage

B. Origin and destination of cargo transiting strait

1. Ports affected by transit regulations

a. Port classification

C. Commercial aviation

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IV. Military

A. Importance of strait as surface supply line

B. Strategic uses

V. Summary

Talking Paper: INR/DFR/RGE 10/27/71